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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Basheer F. ZOUBI (Jordan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1995, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fiftieth session the item entitled:

"Operational activities for development:

(a) Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

(b) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee (see A/C.2/50/1).

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 24th to 29th, 37th, 40th, 41st and 43rd meetings, from 7 to 10 October, on 17 and 30 November and on 5 and 12 December 1995. An account of the Committee's general discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/50/SR.24-29, 37, 40, 41 and 43). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 8th meetings, on 3, 4 and 9 to 11 October (see A/C.2/50/SR.3-8).

3. For the consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Notes by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "National execution of projects" (A/50/113) and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon (A/50/113/Add.1);

(b) Letter dated 19 June 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final documents of the summit meeting of the group of seven major industrialized countries, held at Halifax, Canada, from 15 to 17 June 1995 (A/50/254-S/1995/501);

(c) Letter dated 7 August 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Colloquium on Post-Conflict Reconstruction Strategies, held at the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Schlaining, on 23 and 24 June 1995 (A/50/345);

(d) Note verbale dated 5 September 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting documents of the inaugural Summit of the Association of Caribbean States, held at Port-of-Spain on 17 and 18 August 1995 (A/50/407);

(e) Letter dated 8 September 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Final Declaration of the Ninth Meeting of Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group, held at Quito on 4 and 5 September 1995 (A/50/425-S/1995/787);

(f) Letter dated 18 September 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the official communiqué of the Twenty-sixth South Pacific Forum, held at Madang, Papua New Guinea, from 3 to 15 September 1995 (A/50/475);

(g) Letter dated 2 October 1995 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the nineteenth annual meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held at United Nations Headquarters on 29 September 1995 (A/50/518);

Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/50/202-E/1995/76);

(i) Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Comprehensive statistical data on operational activities for development for the year 1994" (A/50/202/Add.1-E/1995/76/Add.1);

(j) Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Comprehensive statistical data on operational activities for development for the year 1993" (A/50/202/Add.2-E/1995/76/Add.2);

(k) Note by the Secretariat entitled "Summary of actions taken by the executive boards of United Nations development funds and programmes and United Nations bodies in the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/33" (A/50/202/Add.3-E/1995/76/Add.3);

Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

(l) Report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on the work of its ninth session (A/50/39);

(m) Report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation (A/50/340 and Add.1);

(n) Report of the Secretary-General drawing the attention of the General Assembly to the report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on the work of its ninth session (A/50/421);

(o) Report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community (A/50/664).

4. At the 24th meeting, on 7 November, the Director of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme made an introductory statement under sub-item 97 (b) (see A/C.2/50/SR.24).

5. At the 26th meeting, on 8 November, introductory statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund and the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (see A/C.2/50/SR.26).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.16

6. At the 37th meeting, on 17 November, the representative of Botswana introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/50/L.16) entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community", on behalf of Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

7. At the 40th meeting, on 30 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Max Stadthagen (Nicaragua), informed the Committee of results of the informal consultations held on the draft resolution and orally revised it as follows:

(a) A new operative paragraph was inserted after operative paragraph 4, to read:

"5. Expresses appreciation to the international community for the financial, technical and material support given to the Community,"

and the subsequent paragraphs were renumbered accordingly;

(b) In the former operative paragraph 5 (now paragraph 6), the word "increase" was replaced by the words "maintain current levels of, and increase, where appropriate";

(c) In former operative paragraph 9 (now paragraph 10), the word "liberated" was replaced by the word "democratized";

(d) In former operative paragraph 10 (now paragraph 11), the words "for the rapid implementation of the Lusaka Protocol, particularly the quartering of all troops and the conclusion of the creation of a new unified national army as a sine qua non condition to foster the peace process in Angola" were replaced by the words "to assist the Government of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola in the rapid implementation of the Lusaka Protocol in all its aspects";

(e) In former operative paragraph 11 (now paragraph 12), the word "humanitarian" between the words "to meet the" and the word "needs" was deleted;

(f) In former operative paragraph 15 (now paragraph 16), the words "drought mitigation," were inserted before the words "drought monitoring".

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.16, as orally revised (see para. 17, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/50/L.24 and A/C.2/50/L.48

9. At the 37th meeting, on 17 November, the representative of the Philippines introduced on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, and Colombia on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, a draft resolution (A/C.2/50/L.24) entitled "Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation", which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming its resolutions 33/134 of 19 December 1978, in which it endorses the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, 1/ and 46/159 of 19 December 1991 on technical cooperation among developing countries, as

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1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

well as other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries,

"Reaffirming also its resolution 49/96 of 19 December 1994 on a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation,

"Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/41 of 30 July 1992 in which the Council called upon all parties in the development effort to make concerted, planned and vigorous endeavours to benefit from utilization of the capacities of developing countries by giving their full support and first consideration to the use of the modality of technical cooperation among developing countries,

"Taking note of the decisions and recommendations contained in the Final Document of the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, 2/ held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 18 to 20 October 1995,

"Bearing in mind the Ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77, 3/ adopted at the nineteenth annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held in New York on 29 September 1995, which emphasized the importance of South-South cooperation, particularly the convening of a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation no later than 1997,

"Reaffirming that South-South cooperation constitutes an important element of international cooperation for development as well as an essential basis for national and collective self-reliance,

"Reaffirming also that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but is complementary to, North-South cooperation,

"Noting with satisfaction the increase in economic and technical cooperation among developing countries reported by both developing countries and the United Nations development system,

"Recognizing the need for the international community to support the developing countries in exploiting all opportunities for expanding South-South cooperation,

"Welcoming the report on new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries, 4/ prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 49/96 of 19 December 1994, whose recommendations were endorsed by the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among

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2/ To be issued in document A/50/752-S/1995/1035.

3/ A/50/518, annex.

4/ TCDC/9/3.

Developing Countries at its ninth session, 5/ and subsequently endorsed by the Economic and Social Council,

"Noting with satisfaction the launching of the South Centre as an intergovernmental organization, and its important contribution to the promotion and strengthening of South-South cooperation,

"Recognizing that recent advances in communications technology have created new opportunities for South-South cooperation,

"Taking note of the report of the Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on South-South Cooperation, 6/ convened by the Secretary-General in New York from 31 July to 4 August 1995, and of the reports of the Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on the work of its ninth session, 7/ at which substantive issues were presented and practical modalities for strengthening South-South economic and technical cooperation at the global level were recommended,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation 8/ and its supplement entitled State of South-South Cooperation: Statistical Pocket Book and Index of Cooperation Organizations, 9/ which provide a comprehensive and systematic overview and analysis of South-South cooperation worldwide and of United Nations system support for such cooperation,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation 8/ and its supplement entitled State of South-South Cooperation: Statistical Pocket Book and Index of Cooperation Organizations; 9/

"2. Endorses the recommendations contained in the report on new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries, 4/ which among other things call for the adoption of a more strategic orientation for technical cooperation among developing countries focusing on priority issues, such as trade and investment, debt, the environment, poverty alleviation, production and employment, and macroeconomic policy coordination, as well as education, health, the transfer of technology and rural development, which are likely to have a major development impact on a large number of developing countries;

5/ See A/50/39, annex I, decision 9/2.

6/ A/AC.246/3.

7/ A/50/39.

8/ A/50/340 and Add.1.

9/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.II.D.18.

"3. Welcomes the decision of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme to increase the allocation of resources for technical cooperation among developing countries during the next programming cycle;

"4. Calls upon all Governments and relevant United Nations organizations, including the multilateral financial institutions, to consider increasing allocations for economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and to identify new funding modalities such as triangular funding arrangements and private sector funding;

"5. Requests the United Nations Development Programme to establish a trust fund for the promotion of South-South cooperation and invites all countries, in particular the developed countries, to contribute to the fund;

"6. Calls upon the developing countries and their institutions to increase joint efforts in technology cooperation, broader technological development such as encompasses scientific and technological management capabilities and information networks that are demand-oriented and involve participation by users of technology or by those involved in the process of technological development, infrastructure and human resources development;

"7. Invites the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, at its ninth session, to be held in South Africa, to consider strengthening economic and technical cooperation among developing countries as a strategy for promoting growth and development and for ensuring the effective integration of the developing countries into the world economy, and to formulate concrete policy recommendations in this regard;

"8. Requests the Secretary-General to present to the General Assembly, on a biennial basis, a report entitled "State of South-South cooperation" containing a comprehensive overview and analysis of South-South economic and technical cooperation worldwide and international support in this regard, including quantitative data and indicators on all aspects of South-South cooperation as well as recommendations for strengthening such cooperation, keeping in view the importance of the proposal to convene a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation no later than 1997;

"9. Calls upon all other organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the regional commissions, to provide analytical and empirical material for the preparation of the above-mentioned report;

"10. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session a sub-item entitled 'Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries'."

10. At the 41st meeting, on 5 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Max Stadthagen (Nicaragua), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/50/L.48)

submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.24.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.48 (see para. 17, draft resolution II).

12. In view of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.48, draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.24 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

C. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.79

13. At the 43rd meeting, on 12 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Max Stadthagen (Nicaragua), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system" (A/C.2/50/L.79), submitted as a result of informal consultations, and orally corrected the text.

14. At same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.79, as orally corrected (see para. 17, draft resolution III).

15. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement (see A/C.2/50/SR.43).

Documents relating to the item on operational activities for development

16. At its 43rd meeting, on 12 December, upon the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the reports under the item on which no draft proposals had been submitted (see para. 18).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

17. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 37/248 of 21 December 1982, 38/160 of 19 December 1983, 39/215 of 18 December 1984, 40/195 of 17 December 1985, 42/181 of 11 December 1987, 44/221 of 22 December 1989, 46/160 of 19 December 1991 and 48/173 of 21 December 1993, in which, inter alia, it requested the Secretary-General to promote cooperation between the organs, organizations and bodies of

the United Nations system and the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, and urged intensification of contacts in order to accelerate the achievement of the objectives of the Lusaka Declaration of 1 April 1980, by which the Conference was established, 10/

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General, 11/

Welcoming the strengthening of the Southern African Development Community 12/ through the admission of South Africa and Mauritius as member States,

Commending member States of the Community for demonstrating their support and commitment to deeper and more formal arrangements for cooperation within the new Community,

Commending also the efforts made by the Community to implement its programme of action,

Reaffirming that the successful implementation of the development programmes of the Community can be achieved only if the Community has adequate resources at its disposal,

Noting that the effects of war, loss of life and destruction of economic and social infrastructure in southern Africa demand the continuation and strengthening of rehabilitation programmes to regenerate the economies of the countries of the region,

Noting also with grave concern the recurrence of drought in the region and the increase of poverty as a result, especially in rural communities,

Recognizing the strengthening of democratic governance and other positive developments in the region, including the holding of elections and installation of a democratic Government in South Africa, and the restoration of democratic rule in Lesotho in September 1994, as well as the holding of multi-party elections in Malawi and recently in the United Republic of Tanzania,

Welcoming with satisfaction the reintegration of Walvis Bay and the offshore islands into Namibia, and noting the impact of Walvis Bay as a major harbour on regional economic cooperation,

Also noting that despite the positive developments in the political and military situation in Angola, the economic, social and humanitarian situation remains dire, and reaffirming both the importance of and the need for a continued and effective United Nations presence in promoting a negotiated settlement in Angola with a view to fostering the peace process,

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10/ See A/38/493, annex I.

11/ A/50/664.

12/ Formerly the Southern African Development Coordination Conference.

Noting with satisfaction the successful implementation of the General Peace Agreement for Mozambique, 13/ which has created favourable conditions for the establishment of lasting peace, the enhancement of democracy, the promotion of national reconciliation, and the implementation of a programme of national reconstruction and development in Mozambique,

Recognizing the valuable and effective economic and financial contribution that some organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system have made to complement national and subregional efforts for the advancement of the process of democratization, rehabilitation and development in southern Africa,

Welcoming the outcome of recent United Nations conferences, in particular the Fourth World Conference on Women, 14/ and recognizing the important role that women play in development in the region,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General, 11/ in which he describes progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions dealing with cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community;

2. Commends the States Members of the United Nations and organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system that have maintained, enhanced and initiated development cooperation with the Community;

3. Calls upon the States Members of the United Nations and organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system that have not yet established contact and relationships with the Community to explore the possibility of doing so;

4. Commends also the members of the Community for the progress that has been achieved to date in implementing its programme of action, and encourages perseverance with those efforts;

5. Expresses appreciation to the international community for the financial, technical and material support given to the Community;

6. Renews its appeal to the international community to maintain current levels of, and increase, where appropriate, its financial, technical and material support to the Community in order to enable it to implement fully its programme of action and to meet the reconstruction and rehabilitation needs of the region;

7. Appeals to the international community and to relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to extend appropriate assistance to the Community in order to enable it to advance further the process of regional economic integration;

13/ See S/24635 and Corr.1, annex.

14/ See A/CONF.177/20.

8. Appeals to the United Nations, its related organs and the international community to assist the Community with appropriate resources to implement the programmes and decisions adopted by various United Nations world conferences, with specific emphasis on the enhancement of the role of women in the development process;

9. Welcomes the economic and political achievements and reforms undertaken within the Community, which are intended to address better the challenges of regional cooperation and integration in the 1990s and beyond;

10. Appeals to the international community to extend the needed assistance to the newly democratized South African nation to enable it to implement its reconstruction and development programme as speedily as possible;

11. Calls upon the United Nations to intensify its efforts to assist the Government of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola in the rapid implementation of the Lusaka Protocol 15/ in all its aspects;

12. Expresses its appreciation for the substantial contributions of Member States, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations to meet the needs of the Angolan people, and encourages additional substantial contributions;

13. Calls upon the international community to continue to extend its support to the people of Mozambique in their efforts to consolidate their newfound peace and democracy based on national reconstruction and development in that country;

14. Reaffirms its appeal to the international community to continue rendering assistance to Namibia to enable it to implement its national development programmes;

15. Commends the Secretary-General and members of the international community for their timely response to the drought situation in southern Africa, which has averted famine in the region;

16. Appeals to the United Nations and the international community for continued assistance in addressing the drought situation in the southern African region, especially through strengthening the capacity of the Community in drought mitigation, drought monitoring, early warning and preparedness;

17. Invites the donor community and other cooperating partners to participate at a high level in the Annual Consultative Conference of the Southern African Development Community, to be held at Johannesburg on 1 and 2 February 1996;

18. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community, to continue to

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15/ See S/1994/1441.

intensify contacts aimed at promoting and harmonizing cooperation between the United Nations and the Community;

19. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 33/134 of 19 December 1978, in which it endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, 16/ and 46/159 of 19 December 1991 on technical cooperation among developing countries, as well as other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries,

Reaffirming also its resolution 49/96 of 19 December 1994 on a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/41 of 30 July 1992, in which the Council called upon all parties in the development effort to make concerted, planned and vigorous endeavours to benefit from utilization of the capacities of developing countries by giving their full support and first consideration to the use of the modality of technical cooperation among developing countries,

Taking note of the decisions and recommendations contained in the Final Document of the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, 17/ held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 18 to 20 October 1995,

Bearing in mind the Ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77, 18/ adopted at the nineteenth annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held in New York on 29 September 1995, which emphasized the importance of South-South cooperation, particularly the convening of a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation no later than 1997,

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16/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

17/ To be issued in document A/50/752-S/1995/1035.

18/ A/50/518, annex.

Reaffirming that South-South cooperation constitutes an important element of international cooperation for development as well as an essential basis for national and collective self-reliance and a means of promoting the integration of developing countries into the world economy,

Reaffirming also that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but is complementary to North-South cooperation,

Noting with satisfaction the increase in economic and technical cooperation among developing countries reported by both developing countries and the United Nations development system,

Recognizing the need for the international community to support the developing countries in optimizing opportunities for expanding South-South cooperation,

Welcoming the report on new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries, 19/ prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 49/96 of 19 December 1994, whose recommendations were endorsed by the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries at its ninth session, 20/ and subsequently endorsed by the Economic and Social Council,

Noting with satisfaction the launching of the South Centre as an intergovernmental organization, and its important contribution to the promotion and strengthening of South-South cooperation,

Recognizing that recent advances in communications technology have created new opportunities for South-South cooperation,

Taking note of the report of the Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on South-South Cooperation, 21/ convened by the Secretary-General in New York from 31 July to 4 August 1995, and of the reports of the Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on the work of its ninth session, 22/ at which substantive issues were presented and practical modalities for strengthening South-South economic and technical cooperation at the global level were recommended,

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19/ TCDC/9/3.

20/ See A/50/39, annex I, decision 9/2.

21/ A/AC.246/3.

22/ See A/50/39.

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation 23/ and its supplement entitled State of South-South Cooperation: Statistical Pocket Book and Index of Cooperation Organizations, 24/ which provide a comprehensive and systematic overview and analysis of South-South cooperation worldwide and of United Nations system support for such cooperation;

2. Endorses the recommendations contained in the report on new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries, 19/ which among other things call for the adoption of a more strategic orientation for technical cooperation among developing countries focusing on priority issues, such as trade and investment, debt, the environment, poverty alleviation, production and employment, and macroeconomic policy coordination, as well as education, health, the transfer of technology and rural development, which are likely to have a major development impact on a large number of developing countries;

3. Welcomes the decision of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme to increase the allocation of resources for technical cooperation among developing countries during the next programming cycle;

4. Calls upon all Governments and relevant United Nations organizations, including the multilateral financial institutions, to consider increasing allocations for economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and to identify new funding modalities to promote South-South cooperation such as triangular cooperation and private sector funding;

5. Invites the United Nations Development Programme to establish a voluntary trust fund for the promotion of South-South cooperation and invites all countries to contribute to the fund;

6. Calls upon the developing countries and their institutions to increase joint efforts in technology cooperation, broader technological development such as encompasses scientific and technological management capabilities and information networks that are demand-oriented and involve participation by users of technology or by those involved in the process of technological development, infrastructure and human resources development;

7. Welcomes the decision of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to address at its ninth session the issue of new approaches to South-South economic cooperation, as well as the role and potential impact on development of regional economic groupings in the globalizing and liberalizing world economy;

8. Invites, in this context, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, at its ninth session, to be held in South Africa, to consider strengthening economic and technical cooperation among developing countries as a strategy for promoting growth and development and for ensuring the effective

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23/ A/50/340 and Add.1.

24/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.II.D.18.

integration of the developing countries into the world economy, and to formulate concrete policy recommendations in this regard;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to present to the General Assembly, on a biennial basis, a report entitled "State of South-South cooperation" containing a comprehensive overview and analysis of South-South economic and technical cooperation worldwide and international support in this regard, including quantitative data and indicators on all aspects of South-South cooperation as well as recommendations for strengthening such cooperation, keeping in view the importance of the proposal to convene a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation;

10. Invites all other organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the regional commissions, to provide analytical and empirical material for the preparation of the above-mentioned report;

11. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the sub-item entitled "Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries".

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/211 of 22 December 1989 and 47/199 of 22 December 1992, as well as other relevant resolutions,

Reaffirming that operational activities for development within the United Nations system have a critical and unique role to play in enabling developing countries to continue to take a lead role in the management of their own development process,

Bearing in mind that the effectiveness of operational activities should be measured by their impact on the sustained economic growth and sustainable development of developing countries,

Stressing that national plans and priorities constitute the only viable frame of reference for the national programming of operational activities for development within the United Nations system, and that programmes should be based on such development plans and priorities, and should therefore be country-driven,

Also stressing in that context the need to take into account the outcomes and commitments of relevant United Nations conferences, as well as the individual mandates and complementarities of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations development system, bearing in mind the need to avoid duplication,

Further stressing that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the needs of developing countries in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities of the United Nations system are carried out for the benefit of the developing countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development,

Recognizing the urgent and specific needs of the low-income countries, in particular the least developed countries,

Noting the progress that has been achieved in a number of areas in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199, while stressing the need for individual organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as coordination mechanisms of the United Nations system, to continue to work towards the full and coordinated implementation of that resolution,

Also recognizing that the United Nations development system should take into account the specific needs and requirements of the countries with economies in transition and other recipient countries,

Recalling that the General Assembly is the highest intergovernmental mechanism for the formulation and appraisal of policy matters relating to the economic, social and related fields, in accordance with Chapter IX of the Charter of the United Nations, and that the functions and powers of the Economic and Social Council are provided for in Chapters IX and X of the Charter and are elaborated in relevant Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 45/264 of 13 May 1991 and 48/162 of 20 December 1993, in which the Assembly defined the relationship between the Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the executive boards of the funds and programmes, in particular the Council function of overall guidance and coordination of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system 25/ and welcomes its user-friendly format;

2. Reaffirms its resolution 47/199 and stresses the need to implement fully all the elements of that resolution in a coherent manner, keeping in mind their interlinkages;

3. Endorses Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/51 of 28 July 1995 on overall guidance on operational activities for development to the United Nations funds and programmes;

4. Notes with regret that, although significant progress has already been made on the restructuring and rationalization of the governance and functioning of the United Nations development funds and programmes, there has not been, as

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25/ A/50/202-E/1995/76.

part of the overall reform process, any substantial increase in resources for operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, nor have the consultations on prospective new modalities for financing reached a conclusion;

5. Strongly reaffirms that the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of the operational activities of the United Nations system must be enhanced by, inter alia, a substantial increase in their funding on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the increasing needs of developing countries, as well as through the full implementation of resolutions 47/199 and 48/162;

6. Urges developed countries, in particular those countries whose overall performance is not commensurate with their capacity, taking into account established official development assistance targets, including targets established at the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and their current levels of contribution, to increase substantially their official development assistance, including contributions to the operational activities of the United Nations system;

7. Notes with appreciation the sustained contributions of many donors and recipient countries to the operational activities for development in a spirit of partnership;

8. Expresses serious concern at the persistent insufficiency of resources for the operational development activities of the United Nations, in particular the decline in contributions to core resources;

9. Stresses the need for a substantial increase in resources for operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the increasing needs of developing countries;

10. Decides that intensified consultations and negotiations on prospective new specific modalities for financing operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, in accordance with paragraphs 31 to 34 of the annex to resolution 48/162 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields, should lead to an agreed outcome in the framework of the review process of that resolution;

11. Reaffirms the need for priority allocation of scarce grant resources to programmes and projects in low-income countries, particularly the least developed countries;

12. Emphasizes that recipient Governments have the primary responsibility for coordinating, on the basis of national strategies and priorities, all types of external assistance, including that provided by multilateral organizations, in order to integrate effectively such assistance into their development process;

13. Urges the members of the United Nations development system to continue to develop an agreed division of responsibility, in accordance with their respective mandates, under the coordination of Governments as well as greater

complementarity in their respective roles at the field level in response to the needs and priorities of recipient countries;

14. Stresses the need for the United Nations system to take full account of the interests and concerns of all recipient countries, and, in that context, stresses the need for it to give serious consideration to ways of ensuring a more coherent response by the system to the national plans and priorities of recipient Governments;

15. Also stresses the need for all organizations of the United Nations development system to focus their efforts at the field level on priority areas, in accordance with the priorities identified by recipient countries and the mandates, mission statements and relevant decisions of their governing bodies, in order to avoid duplication and enhance the complementarity and impact of their work;

16. Further stresses that, in the context of the reform of the United Nations Secretariat and the restructuring and revitalization of the intergovernmental process, the mandates of the separate sectoral and specialized entities, funds, programmes and specialized agencies should be respected and enhanced, taking into account their complementarities;

17. Reaffirms that the country strategy note remains a voluntary initiative of recipient countries that should be formulated by interested recipient countries in accordance with their development plans and priorities, with the assistance of and in cooperation with the United Nations system under the leadership of the resident coordinator, in all recipient countries where the Government so decides;

18. Decides that, where in place, the country strategy note should be the common framework for country programmes of United Nations system organizations and for programming, monitoring and evaluating United Nations system activities in such countries, and that the country strategy note should outline the United Nations system contribution, including, where appropriate, an indication of the level of resources needed to meet the requirements therein;

19. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with interested Member States and in order to be able to respond more effectively to the needs of recipient countries, to undertake further work on:

(a) Broad common guidelines, with the aim of promoting greater consistency and clarity in the United Nations system contribution to country strategy notes;

(b) Enhancing its operational relevance by ensuring that the development of individual country programmes takes fully into account the framework provided by the country strategy note, where it exists, so as to promote an agreed division of responsibility within the United Nations system in accordance with paragraph 13 of the present resolution;

(c) Promoting the exchange of experiences gained in producing country strategy notes among recipient countries;

20. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States and United Nations organizations, to consider ways of enhancing the coordination of United Nations development activities at the regional and subregional levels, including ways of enhancing the role of the regional commissions and of promoting the national ownership of regional programmes;

21. Stresses that the United Nations system, where requested by interested Governments, should support the establishment of the forums and mechanisms that facilitate and guide policy dialogue among the partners in the development process, primarily in order to ensure that their programmes are integrated with national plans and strategies;

22. Decides that the objective of capacity-building and its sustainability should continue to be an essential part of the operational activities of the United Nations system at the country level, with the aim of integrating their activities and providing support to efforts to strengthen national capacities in the fields of, inter alia, policy and programme formulation, development management, planning, implementation, coordination, monitoring and review;

23. Recalls the importance of accountability as well as of simplifying reporting requirements, which should be in line with national systems;

24. Decides that, where Governments so desire, the United Nations system should be ready to engage in providing an enabling environment to strengthen the capacity of civil societies and national non-governmental organizations that are involved in development activities, in accordance with national priorities;

25. Decides further that the United Nations system should use, to the fullest extent possible, available national expertise and indigenous technologies;

26. Calls for further work on the development of common guidelines at the field level for the recruitment, training and remuneration of national project personnel, including national consultants in the formulation and implementation of development projects and programmes supported by the United Nations development system in order to enhance the coherence of the system;

27. Decides that the United Nations development system should continue to work on promoting a common understanding and the operationalization of capacity-building concepts, as well as on ways of enhancing the sustainability of capacity-building;

28. Also decides that the United Nations development system should continue to work on improving the definition and guidelines for national execution and the programme approach;

29. Requests the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to undertake efforts in the context of national execution and capacity-building to enhance the absorptive capacity in developing countries, in particular in the least developed countries and Africa, and to assist similar efforts undertaken by those countries;

30. Stresses the important role of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system in transferring and facilitating the necessary technical and substantive expertise to support the national execution of United Nations-funded programmes and projects, and invites the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the heads of specialized agencies, to inform the Economic and Social Council of the measures taken by those specialized agencies in response to Assembly resolution 47/199, in particular as regards national execution;

31. Also stresses that the governing bodies of all funds, programmes and specialized agencies should make further progress in order to ensure that the prescribed limits on field-level authority for cancelling, modifying and adding activities within approved programmes and shifting resources within approved budget lines of individual components of a programme and among components of a programme, with the approval of national authorities, should be expanded to become equal and uniform, to the maximum extent possible, in the context of enhanced accountability;

32. Recognizes that monitoring and evaluation processes, including joint evaluations, should continue to be nationally led, and that the United Nations system should therefore support, where requested by Governments, the strengthening of national evaluation capacities;

33. Further recognizes in that context the need to strengthen capacities to perform both effective programme, project and financial monitoring and impact evaluations of operational activities funded by the United Nations;

34. Requests the United Nations system to strengthen its efforts, in consultation with recipient countries, to ensure that:

(a) Monitoring is carried out in a way that ensures the timely identification of problems and effective remedial action;

(b) Organizations of the United Nations system, operating at the country level, coordinate their periodic programme reviews and evaluations;

(c) The lessons learned from both monitoring and evaluation exercises are systematically applied into programming processes at the operational level, and that responsibility for such application is clearly assigned;

(d) Evaluation criteria are built into all projects and programmes at their design stage, bearing in mind the need for adequate training;

35. Underlines the importance of promoting, under the leadership of Governments, greater collaboration on issues relating to evaluation among recipient Governments, the United Nations development system and relevant development partners at the country level;

36. Requests the Secretary-General to make the resident coordinator system more participatory in its functioning at the field level by, inter alia, making greater use of thematic groups and adopting a more consultative approach;

37. Further requests the Secretary-General to:

(a) Identify ways of encouraging wider participation in the pool of candidates for resident coordinator positions;

(b) Promote greater governmental involvement in the selection process for resident coordinators, in particular by ensuring that national Governments are consulted before the post profile for resident coordinators is passed to the Joint Consultative Group on Policies, and keeping up to date the selection criteria for resident coordinators and, through the respective executive heads, for senior representatives of United Nations agencies in the field, bearing in mind the specific circumstances of individual countries;

(c) Develop common guidelines for staff performance appraisal for the funds and programmes, including ways of assessing the contribution of staff members to United Nations system coordination;

(d) Urge all members of the United Nations development system to give clear guidance and direction to their country representatives to promote the effective functioning of the resident coordinator system;

(e) Promote training in the areas of team-building and interpersonal skills;

38. Invites the United Nations system, including the funds and programmes, specialized agencies and the Secretariat, to provide, as appropriate, support to the resident coordinator system;

39. Reaffirms that resident coordinators, in full consultation with national Governments, should facilitate a coherent and coordinated United Nations follow-up to major international conferences at the field level;

40. Decides that in order to promote coordination and a better division of labour resident coordinators should, at an early stage of formulation, be informed of planned programme activities of the United Nations agencies, funds, programmes and bodies;

41. Also decides that the field-level committees organized by the United Nations system country team, which were established in accordance with paragraph 40 of General Assembly resolution 47/199, should review substantive activities - including draft country programmes, sectoral programmes and projects - prior to their approval by individual organizations, and should exchange experience acquired, on the understanding that the result of the work of the review committee should be submitted to national Governments for final approval through the national focal points;

42. Reaffirms the need to enhance the responsibility and authority of resident coordinators for the planning and coordination of programmes, as well as to allow them to propose, in full consultation with Governments, to the heads of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies, the amendment of country programmes and major projects and programmes, where required, in order to bring them into line with country strategy notes;

43. Requests the Secretary-General and the United Nations development system to take the need for gender balance fully into account when making appointments, including at the senior level and in the field, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions;

44. Requests the Joint Consultative Group on Policies and, to the maximum extent possible, the specialized agencies, to raise substantially the target for achieving common premises on the basis of cost-benefit analysis and avoiding an increased burden on host countries;

45. Calls for further simplification and harmonization of rules of procedure used by the United Nations development system in its operational activities, in particular by the promotion of greater consistency in the presentation of budgets at the headquarters level, as well as in sharing administrative systems and services in the field, where possible, and in developing common databases, in consultation with national Governments;

46. Urges the members of the United Nations development system to adopt a more collaborative approach in preparing reports at all levels;

47. Requests the Secretary-General to promote the creation or further development of common guidelines on procedures relating to, inter alia, programme components and project formulation, appraisal, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and administrative procedures, in fulfilment of paragraph 33 of General Assembly resolution 47/199;

48. Takes note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/50 of 28 July 1995, in which the Council decided that the high-level meeting of the operational activities segment of its substantive session of 1996 should focus on strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions in the area of social and economic development at all levels, including the field level;

49. Takes note of the mission statement of the World Food Programme and the decision of the executive boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund to establish mission statements for their respective organizations;

50. Emphasizes the importance of disseminating the experience of effective and efficient cooperation with the United Nations development system, inter alia, through interregional projects of technical cooperation, and urges the United Nations system to give support to such activities;

51. Calls upon the United Nations system, in implementing the present resolution, to bear in mind the specific requirements of the continuum from humanitarian assistance through rehabilitation to development;

52. Requests the Secretary-General, after consultations with the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to present to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1996 an appropriate management process containing clear guidelines, targets, benchmarks and time-frames for the full implementation of the present resolution;

53. Invites the Economic and Social Council, during the operational activities segment of its substantive sessions of 1996 and 1997, to examine the operational activities of the United Nations system with a view to ensuring the full implementation of the present resolution;

54. Further invites the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1996, to consider, inter alia, the issues of harmonization and administrative services, common premises and monitoring and evaluation, and, at its substantive session of 1997, to consider, inter alia, capacity-building, field and regional-level coordination, and resources, on the basis of progress reports by the Secretary-General, including appropriate recommendations;

55. Reaffirms that the governing bodies of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system should take appropriate action for the full implementation of the present resolution, and requests the executive heads of those funds, programmes and specialized agencies, bearing in mind paragraph 46 of the present resolution, to submit a yearly progress report to their governing bodies on measures taken and envisaged for the implementation of the present resolution, as well as appropriate recommendations;

56. Decides that, as an integral part of the next comprehensive triennial policy review, there should be, in consultation with Member States, an evaluation of the impact of operational activities for development, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive sessions of 1996 and 1997 information on progress in that regard;

57. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of the present resolution in the context of the triennial policy review, and to make appropriate recommendations.

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18. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Documents relating to operational activities for development

The General Assembly decides to take note of the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "National execution of projects"; 26/

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "National execution of projects"; 27/

26/ A/50/113.

27/ A/50/113/Add.1.

(c) Report of the Secretary-General drawing the attention of the General Assembly to the report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on the work of its ninth session. 28/

28/ A/50/421.